SURGE NARROWS PROVINCIAL PARK

PURPOSE STATEMENT AND ZONING PLAN

March 2003

Approved by:

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Environmental Stewardship Division

Date: March 25/03

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Date: March 31/03

105-00253/

SURGE NARROWS PROVINCIAL PARK
Purpose Statement and Zoning Plan

Primary Role

The **primary** role of Surge Narrows Park is to protect the natural values associated with a fast water marine ecosystem. The park, which is located on the southern tip of Maurelle Island, protects the shoreline and several of the islands that border a tidal pass located between the east side of Quadra Island and the south side of Maurelle Island. It also protects part of a marine ecosystem on the west coast of British Columbia and contributes to representing the Johnston Strait *Marine* Ecosection. With its high tidal changes and many reefs, this park has ideal conditions for marine life such as all five species of salmon native to British Columbia, rockfish, prawns, sea urchins, sea cucumbers, sea stars, and anemones. The park also contains a haul-out site for harbour seals, and serves as ideal habitat for harbour porpoises, loons, grebes, waterfowl, and seabirds.

Surge Narrows Park makes small contributions to protecting the under-represented Coastal Western Hemlock xm2 biogeoclimatic subzone and the Outer Fiordland Ecosection.

Secondary Role

The **secondary** role is to provide recreation opportunities such as viewing of tidal rapids, nature observation, fishing, advanced kayaking, and scuba diving during slack water. Although not of major significance, the park contributes to the recreational opportunities available to local and regional residents and to the boaters exploring the Inside Passage. There are no facilities in the park, but primitive camping occurs on Goepel Island and anchoring is possible north of Sturt Island which is a privately owned island adjacent to the park.

Management Issues

Known Management Issue	Response
Lack of knowledge of natural and cultural values, especially marine	➢ Encourage inventory and research on marine species and communities. ➢ Conduct a cultural inventory and traditional use study in conjunction with First Nations.
Impacts of commercial fishing (intensity of use is high) and nearby aquaculture on marine values	➢ Work with DFO to ensure that park concerns are considered in managing the commercial fishery, and aquaculture operations. ➢ Install boundary signage.
Lack of opportunity to view rapids (marine tidal pass) from land	➢ Determine the potential for land based viewing opportunities.

Zoning

Natural Environment Zone - covers the entire park (488 hectares). The objective of this zone is to protect scenic values and to provide recreation opportunities in a largely undisturbed natural environment.

Conservation

Representation - ecosection	☒	Surge Narrows Park makes a small contribution of 1.2% to the representation of the Outer Fiordland Ecosection (OUF), which is under represented provincially with only 3.3% of its area being protected. It makes a contribution of 2.8% to the representation of the Johnstone Strait *Marine* Ecosection (JS), which has only 3.7% of its area protected.
- biogeoclimatic subzone/variant	☒	Surge Narrows Park makes a minimal contribution of 0.9% to the representation of CWHxm2, which has only 4.13% protected provincially
Special Features	☒	Fast water passages
Rare/Endangered Values	☒	Marine habitat for *blue-listed* harbour porpoise and *yellow-listed species of conservation concern (S4)* coho, sockeye, and chinook salmon
Scientific/Research Opportunities	☐	None known at this time

Recreation

Representation backcountry	☐	Not Applicable
destination	☒	Diving at slack tide, viewing rapids
travel corridor	☒	Kayaking and secondary marine route
local recreation	☒	Fishing, boating
Special Opportunities	☐	None known at this time
Education/Interpretation Opportunities	☐	None known at this time

Cultural Heritage

Representation	☒	Traditional marine transportation corridor
Special Feature	☒	2 archaeological sites

Other Management Considerations

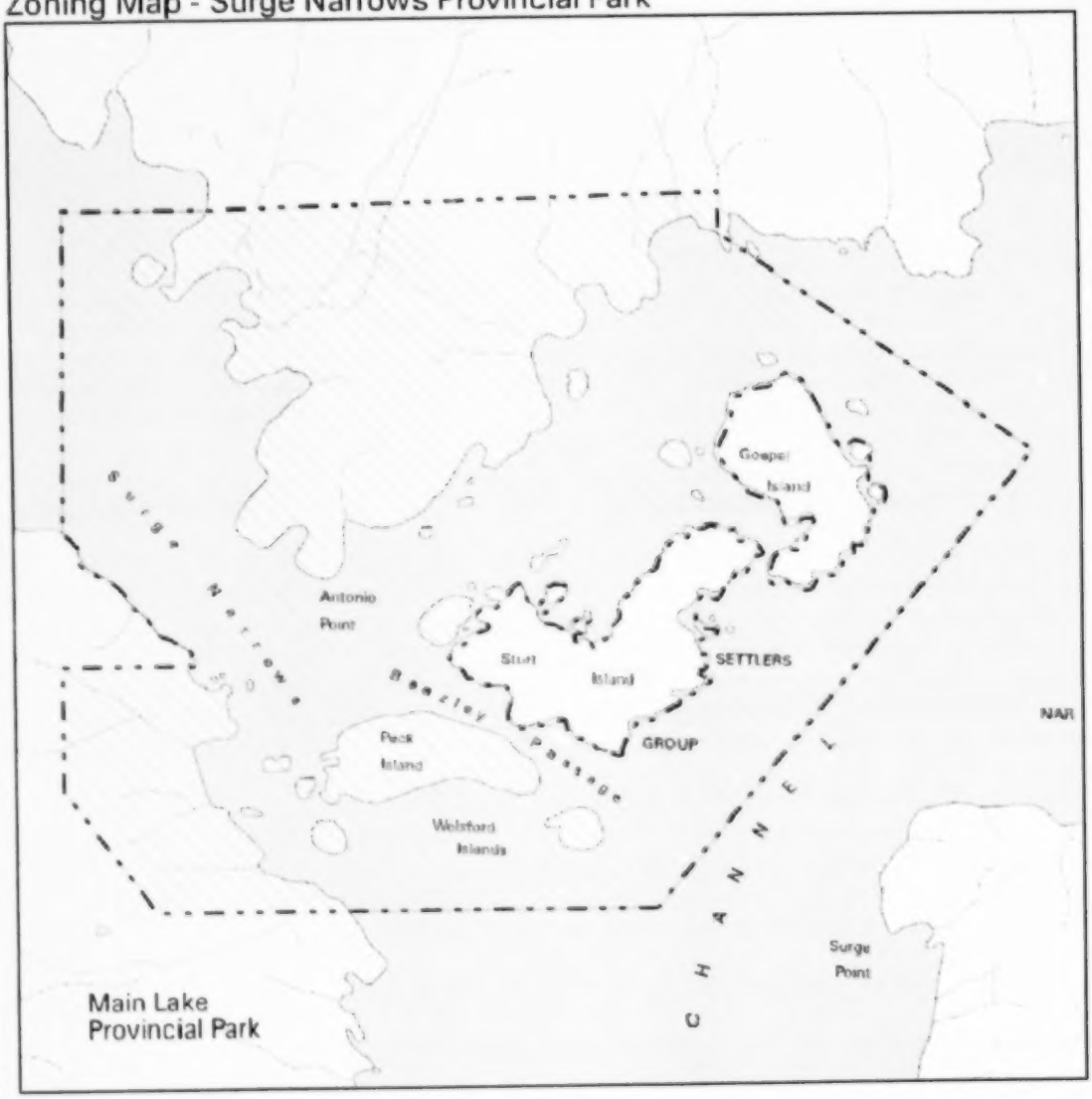
Other Designations	☐	Not Applicable
Relationship to other PAs	☒	Part of a system of protected areas in the Inside Passage

Co-operative Management Arrangements	☒	Commercial fishery closure specific to the park: Pacific oyster is prohibited from harvesting
Partnerships	☐	Not Applicable
Vulnerability	☒	Natural values are vulnerable to intense commercial fishing pressures, nearby aquaculture, and adjacent logging
Relationship to other Strategies	☒	Marine Protected Areas Strategy. Designated as a result of recommendations made in the Vancouver Island Land Use Plan Goal 2 process.

Area: 488 hectares (176 ha upland; 312 ha foreshore)

Date of establishment: April 30, 1996

Zoning Map - Surge Narrows Provincial Park



Projection: Albers Equal Areas
Datum: NAD83

Natural Environment
Protected Area Boundary

0 500
m

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